Relaxation in norms of BPL in hilly areas

†568. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of BPL families in 2006-07, State-wise;

(b) whether Government is reconsidering norms of BPL;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the norm set by Central Government is not practicable in many areas, especially hilly areas;

(d) if so, what step is being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) whether Government is thinking of giving relaxation in norms of BPL in hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per the poverty estimate of Planning Commission for 2004-05 projected on population estimate of Registrar General of India as on October, 2006, there are 571 lakh BPL families (including 242 lakhs AAY families). State/UT-wise details of BPL households is enclosed as Statement *(See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Department of Food and Public Distribution does not fix norms for identification of BPL families. These norms are fixed by Ministry of Rural Development for rural areas and Ministry of Urban Development for urban areas in consultation with Planning Commission.

Statement

State/UT-wise details of BPL households

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF BPL HOUSEHOLDS						
Sl. No.	State/UT	Total Projected population as on 1.10.2006 (in lakh)	BPL Households % of BPL Population based on 2004-05 poverty estimation (Lakh)	BPL Households No. of BPL Population based on 2004-05 Poverty Estimation	Household size (Census 2001)	No. of BPL Households in 2006 on the basis of 2004-05 poverty estimation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	812.19	15.80	126.10	4.48	28.644
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.78	17.60	2.03	5.09	0.407
3.	Assam	288.96	19.70	55.77	5.42	10.503
4.	Bihar	916.31	41.40	369.15	6.04	62.807
5.	Chhattisgarh	227.97	40.90	90.96	5.09	18.318
6.	Delhi	162.91	14.70	22.93	5.07	4.723
7.	Goa	15.17	13.80	2.01	4.57	0.458
8.	Gujarat	554.75	16.80	90.96	5.23	17.820
9.	Haryana	235.69	14.00	32.10	5.70	5.789
10.	Himachal Pradesh	64.98	10.00	6.36	4.98	1.305
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	110.35	5.40	5.85	6.47	0.921
12.	Jharkhand	295.67	40.30	116.39	5.61	21.240
13.	Karnataka	566.47	25.00	138.89	5.08	27.877
14.	Kerala	334.26	15.00	49.60	4.73	, 10.600

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Madhya Pradesh	670.93	38.30	249.68	5.53	46.468
16.	Maharashtra	1057.40	30.70	317.38	4.95	65.580
17.	Manipur	23.25	17.30	3.95	5.78	0.696
18.	Meghalaya	24.88	18.50	4.52	5.54	0.831
19.	Mizoram	9.53	12.60	1.18	5.04	0.238
20.	Nagaland	21.35	19.00	3.99	6.07	0.668
21.	Orissa	391.21	46.40	178.49	4.76	38.135
22.	Punjab	262.57	8.40	21.63	5.60	3.939
23.	Rajasthan	629.51,	22.10	134.89	6.06	22.957
24.	Sikkim	5.80	20.10	1.14	4.74	0.246
25.	Tamil Nadu	654.35	22.50	145.62	4.26	34.561
26.	Tripura	34.32	18.90	6.38	4.82	1.346
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1853.30	32.80	590.03	6.45	94.245
28	Uttaranchal	93.05	39.60	35.96	5.30	6.952
29.	West Bengal	857.68	24.70	208.36	5.05	41.950
30.	A&N Islands	4.27	22.60	0.92	4.55	0.212
31.	Chandigarh	11.35	7.10	0.74	4.36	9.185
32.	D & N Haveli	2.74	33.20	0.84	4.84	0.188
33.	Daman & Diu	2.23	10.50	0.21	4.43	0.053
34.	Lakshadweep	0.73	16.00	0.11	6.07	0.019
35.	Pondicherry	11.23	22.40	2.37	4.52	0.557
	TOTAL ;	11219.140	27.50	3017.22	5.31	571.438

Review of Wheat Import Policy

569. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is facing shortage in production/supply of wheat/rice and importing at present;

(b) whether Government has, so far, floated any tender to import wheat/rice;

(c) if so, what quantity and at what price per quintal of wheat/rice was imported during the last two years, till date, countrywise; and

(d) whether India being the second largest country in the world for wheat production, Government proposes to review its "wheat import policy" now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per the Fourth Advance estimates released by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, production of wheat in crop year 2006-07 (to be marketed in 2007-08) was 74.89 million tonnes which is adequate to meet the estimated demand of 71.! 9 million tonnes in the country in 2007-08. The production of rice in 2007-08 is 92.7 million tonnes which is adequate to meet the estimated demand of 90.91 million tonnes. However, in order to build up adequate buffer stocks in the Central Pool for ensuring food security of the country, decision to import wheat has been taken.